Raymark Site Bulletin #21
November 1998

EPA To Expand Off-Site Investigations

EPA Region 1, New England

Highlights of Cleanup Activities...

* EPA expands scope of cleanup plan

* EPA to study flow of contaminated groundwater in Ferry Creek area

* New groundwater monitoring wells to be installed

* Raybestos Memorial Field targeted in study and cleanup

* Well installation work to begin now until January 1999

Raymark Cleanup Team contacts

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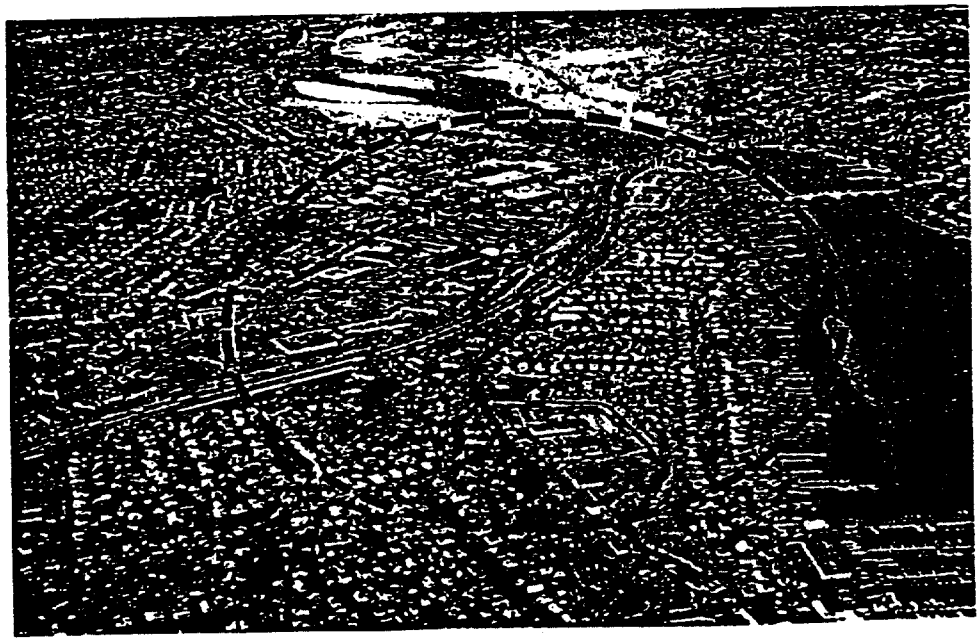
INTRODUCTION

The Raymark facility on East Main Street in Stratford, Connecticut operated from 1919 to 1989. During that period, solvents were spilled and dumped onsite, and waste containing asbestos, lead, and PCBs from the manufacture of vehicle friction parts was disposed of on the facility property and at off-site residential, municipal, and commercial properties. Surface water and groundwater around the facility were also affected by contact with contaminants.

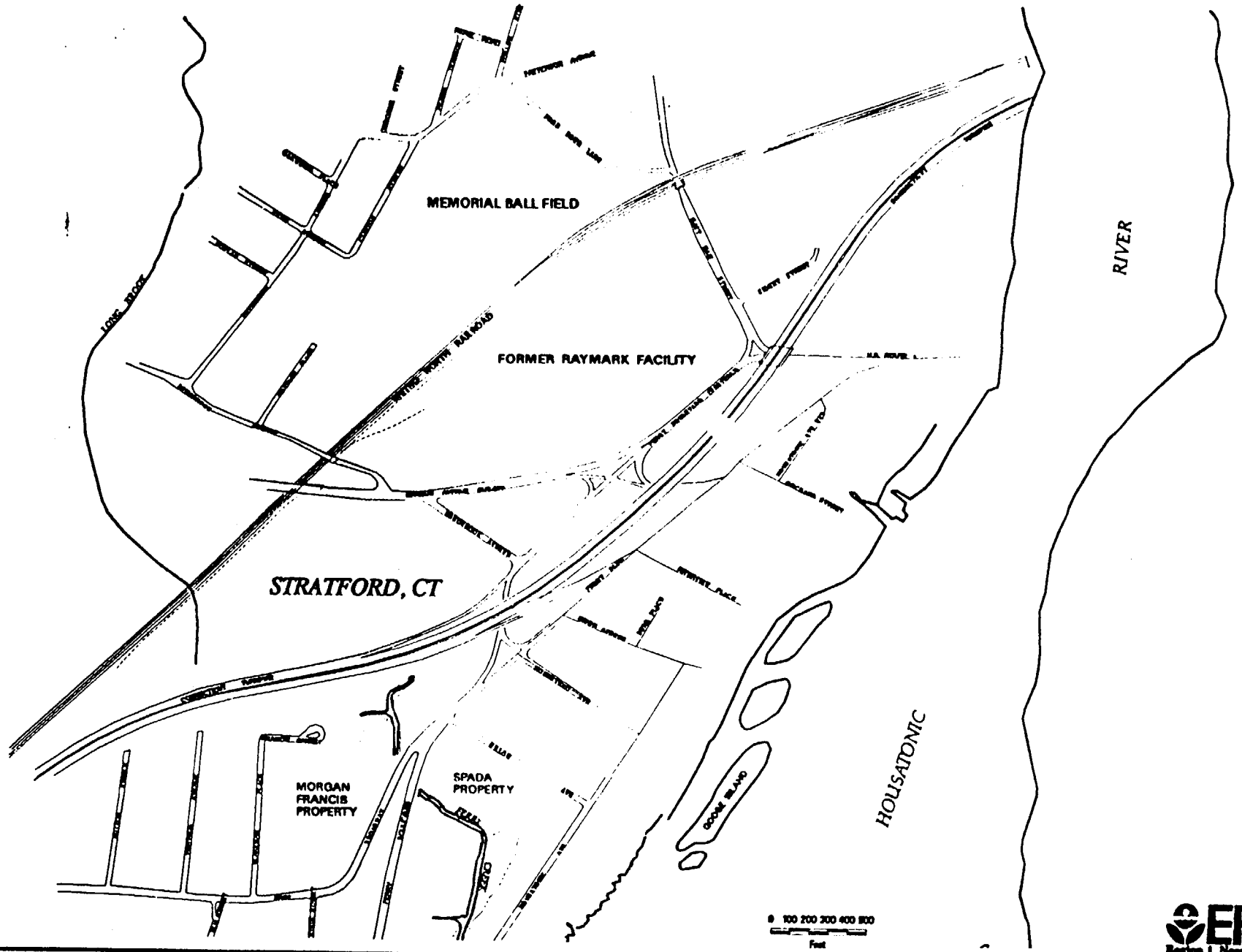
Due to the amount and extent of the widespread contamination, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with the assistance of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), divided the study and cleanup of Raymark waste in Stratford into several phases to make cleanup more manageable.

The second phase, completed in 1997, was the cleanup and capping of the former Raymark plant. The first phase, completed in 1995, was the emergency removal of Raymark waste from 46 residential properties, Short Beach Park, and the Wooster Junior High School.



Aerial view of Raymark site, dashed line shows approximate study area

Area Of Planned Sampling Activities



New Directions for Cleanup

EPA had planned to propose a cleanup for the Ferry Creek area and surrounding properties during 1998, followed by a separate cleanup plan in 1999 for the groundwater contamination migrating from the Raymark plant.

This approach is being changed as more recent data indicates that the contaminated groundwater from the East Main Street site is migrating into the Ferry Creek area.

This raised questions about the effectiveness of any Ferry Creek cleanup without first knowing more about the groundwater. Without a complete understanding of the two areas, contaminated groundwater might recontaminate cleaned up portions of Ferry Creek.

While it made sense in 1993 to subdivide the cleanup work into phases, EPA and DEP believe it now makes sense to combine the remaining cleanup into a comprehensive project. For many of the same reasons, the Raybestos Memorial Field located on Frog Pond Lane north of the Raymark facility, will also be included in the study and cleanup.

The Raybestos Memorial Field is an approximately 13 acre property, previously owned by Raymark, where Raymark disposed of significant quantities of waste. It is separated from the former Raymark facility Site by the Metro North rail line on the ballfield's southern border. Residential properties along Clinton Street and Paterson Avenue border the ballfield to the northwest. A six foot high chain link fence was installed around the site by EPA during an emergency interim cleanup action in 1992. A cover of soil was placed over approximately 9 acres to prevent possible exposure to contamination at the site. The temporary measure was designed to be consistent with any future investigation and long term permanent cleanup.

Why More Study?

In order to make decisions about the most effective and efficient overall cleanup options for the remaining areas of Raymark waste, EPA and DEP need further information. Data from the activities described below, combined with data collected over the past 5 years, will be analyzed and evaluated to develop methods to address all the Raymark related contamination.

Field Work To Begin In November

Field crews will work in Stratford from approximately November 1998 to January 1999. They will be installing up to 60 additional groundwater monitoring wells, collecting groundwater samples at these and some existing wells, collecting soil samples, and performing subsurface tests. The activities are designed to determine the direction and speed of groundwater flow, the tide's influence on groundwater, and the area of contaminated groundwater in the aquifer. The attached map depicts the area in which these activities will occur.

Community Involvement

During September and October of 1997, EPA installed 32 monitoring wells in 10 locations in the Ferry Creek area. Four locations were on streets in residential areas. EPA staff and contractors worked with residents in the vicinity of the wells to minimize disturbances during their installation.

In the coming weeks, residents and businesses within the areas outlined on the map will receive additional fact sheets. The general public will be notified before construction begins, and

neighborhood notices will be issued in advance. The schedules for the drilling may vary.

Every effort will be made to avoid school bus stops, accommodate other neighborhood concerns, and to keep construction to regular daytime working hours. All safety precautions will be taken during drilling to protect human health and the environment.

If you have any questions or concerns now or in the coming weeks, please call the Stratford Health Department at 203-385-4090 or Jim Murphy on EPA's toll free line: 1-888-372-7341.

Jim Murphy, of EPA's Community Involvement staff, will be visiting areas in Stratford where monitoring wells will be installed to talk to residents and commercial property owners about the exact locations of the monitoring wells and about how to make the work less inconvenient for residents and businesses. Please feel free to contact Jim if you would like to schedule a time to talk with him at your home or business during early November.

NEXT STEPS

Once data from the activities identified above is collected, it will be summarized in a Remedial Investigation (RI) report which will detail the extent of contamination in the area. The next step will be to determine possible cleanup options which be presented in a Feasibility Study (FS) report. After all cleanup alternatives are evaluated, a comprehensive proposed cleanup plan will be developed. The proposed cleanup plan will describe all the various cleanup options that were considered and propose a selected remedy for cleanup of the remaining areas of contamination. The proposed cleanup plan is scheduled to be issued in the year 2000.

Once the proposed cleanup plan is issued, there will be a public comment period and a public hearing. EPA and DEP will review any issues and concerns expressed by Stratford citizens and officials and incorporate them into the plan where possible. A final cleanup decision will be made, followed by a period of design, before cleanup or construction begins.

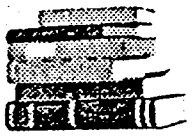
Along the way, EPA will hold a series of public information meetings to explain findings and request comments on its plans. EPA staff will also be available to speak to small or large groups of interested citizens and businesses to further explain the proposed remedy.

Public comments are welcomed anytime from now until the site is ultimately cleaned up.

Where to go for more information.

To review technical documents and reports related to cleanup of the Raymark site, you may visit the Raymark site Repository located at:

Stratford Public Library
Reference Desk
2203 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06497
(203) 385-4164



EPA Records Center
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Internet users may access general information on the Superfund Program by accessing EPA's Superfund Web page at:

http://www.epa.gov/superfund